

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00648 161618Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 L-02 ABF-01 /016 W

----- 057751

P 161540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7157

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 648

PASS AF/W

EO 16652 NA

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUNDS (SSH) FOR FY75

REF A. STATE 113753 B. COTONO 636 C. STATE 11364 D. CHESSES-

SEGALL LTR MAY 8 E. COTNNOU 576 F. SEGALL-CHESSES LTR

15 APRIL G. COTONO 250

1. WE ARE COMPLETELY BAFFLED BY REF A WHICH HAS THE EFFECT OF
NULLIFYING THE MASSIVE EFFORT THIS EMBASSY HAS MADE IN PAST
THREE MONTHS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PAYOFF OF SELF-HELP
PROGRAM. REF B DID NOT RPT NOT SAY WE WOULD MAKE FULL USE
OF \$59,000. IT SAID WE WOULD MAKE USE OF THE \$74,000 THAT
REF F INDICATED WOULD BE ALLOTTED TO US DURING FY75. WE DO
NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEM IN OBLIGATIN THE FULL AMOUNT IN GOOD
TIME.

2. RE IMPEDIMENTS RELATING TO DAHOMEAN GOVT DESCIRIBED REF
G, WE HAVE INDEED MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, IN FACT MUCH MORE
THAT WE ANTICIPATED. AS RESULT OF INTENSIVE EFFORT FROM
OUR SIDE, COOPERATION OF DAHOMEAN OFFICIALS IN THIS SPHERE HAS
GREATLY IMPROVED AND EFFICIENCY OF
THE PROGRAM HAS INCREASED
SUBSTANTILIY. (THIS CONNECTION ALL PROJECTS HAVE TO PASS THROUGH
THE DAHOMEAN CHAIN OF COMMAND BEFORE THEY GET TO US.) POPULARITY
OF PROGRAM IN VILLAGES CONTINUES TO MOUNT.

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3. WE SEE NO VALID BASIS TO TAKE AWAY OUR FOURTH QTR TRANCHE.

WE COULD HAVE APPROVED MORE THAN \$74,000 WORTH OF ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS TWO MONTHS AGO WITH A FEW STROKES OF THE PEN IF OUR PROGRAM HERE HAD REMAINED ON THE TRADITIONAL BASIS, WITHOUT INTENSIVE INSPECTION AND COST CONTROL. THROUGH INVESTIGATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS, WE ARE SAVING MONEY, SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, AND WE ARE AT LAST ON A BASIS THAT WOULD PLEASE ANY AUDITORS. OUR CONCERN IS NOT TO SPEND MONEY QUICKLY BUT TO SPEND IT WISELY AND GET THE MAXIMUM OUT OF IT (AND OF COURSE, ALSO IN GOOD TIME).

4. WE WOULD URGE FURTHER REFLECTION ON CONTENTS OF REF B, WHICH DESCRIBED WHAT WE ARE DOING. SELF-HELP PROGRAM IS VITAL TO US AT THIS MOMENT, IT IS THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE THAT HAS A GOOD POTENTIAL FOR LARGE-SCALE AS YET UNREALIZED PAYOFFS IN MARXIST-LENINIST DAHOMEY, WHERE OUR RANGE OF MANOEUVRE IS SO NARROW. WE DO HAVE THE FISCAL YEAR TIMETABLE CONSTANTLY IN MIND, AND OUR EFFORTS ARE PACED ACCORDINGLY.

5. WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD MOST SPONSORS OF PENDING ACCEPTABLE APPLICATIONS THAT THEIR PROJECTS WILL BE APPROVED AND AGREEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN PROCESS OF BEING DRAWN UP. WE CANNOT BACKDOWN NOW, NOT AFTER OUR INTENSIVE WORK WITH SPONSORS TO GET SOUND COST-CONSCIOUS PROJECTS AND AFTER THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CREDIT WE HAVE RECEIVED.

6. WE PROPOSE A) SENDING IN PERIODIC REPORTS ON FURTHER OBLIGATIONS AND B) WINDING UP ON SAY MAY 30, WHEN WE WOULD TURN BACK ANY UNOBLIGATED FUNDS (WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ANY).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF \$74,000 LEVEL
FY FY75.
ENGLE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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